



**VIRGINIA ENCAMPMENT 2015
FORT PICKETT**

Special points of interest:

- Cadets arrive
- First class
- Barracks set up
- Parent Orientation
- New welcome process

Quote of the day:

**“You don’t
gotta like it, you
just gotta do it,”
- Unknown**



Day One– Cadets Arrive

By: PAO Cadre

FORT PICKETT – Cadets representing Civil Air Patrol’s (CAP) North Carolina, Maryland, National Capitol and Virginia Wings are participating in the Virginia Wing (VAWG) Encampment 2015. Carpooling in family vehicles, and CAP Vans, the student cadets arrived for check-in and the start of the 7-day encampment from Sunday (June 21, 2015) through Sunday (June 28, 2015) to “Train Leaders for Today, Tomorrow, and Beyond”. Eight flights, Alpha to Hotel (A to H on the phonetic alphabet) consisting of 159 Student Cadets, and an Advanced Flight consisting of 9 Advanced Student Cadets checked-in yesterday between 1:30 and 3:00 PM.

Advanced Students Cadets are second-year cadets and beyond who participate in advanced training separate from the regular students and do not serve on the cadet cadre, but are preparing to become cadre next year. Virginia Wing Encampment is hosting an advanced cadet squadron for the first time.

Something else that is new this year is the Dining Services Staff. Dining Services consists primarily of cadet cadre and senior member cadre managing, preparing and serving all the meals for the encampment.

Encampment participants from 27 squadrons and their families arrived at the staging area where administrative staff greeted them for the check-in process. “We didn’t have to process paperwork at check-in because it was done on-line,” said 1st Lt. Anita Simpkins, Administration Officer.

“Administration thanks the parents for their diligence in filling out paper work, in some cases multiple times,” she added. “It reduced the wait times for standing in line in the sun.”

“Every year we’re trying to streamline the process”, 1st Lt. Simpkins added. “Capt. Robin Haight deserves thanks for spearheading the administrative processes and procedures even after her duty reassignment to Encampment Executive Officer. She did a lot of work behind the scenes.”

Baggage was off-loaded and a parent orientation was conducted to include tours of the dining facility and barracks. Parents were appreciative of the parent orientation as this a first for VAWG Encampment.

Students said their good-byes and proceeded to their assigned barracks accompanied by flight staff, where they dropped-off their belongings at their assigned bunks. From there, students proceeded to waiting CAP vans for transportation to the Pickett Theatre for cadre introductions and to receive their guidons (flight flags).

The student cadets were organized and assigned by flight groupings. During week the student cadets will be immersed into the full opportunities and challenges of cadet life, explained Lt. Col. Timothy Day, Encampment Commander.

“During the encampment, student cadets will develop leadership skills, learn about aviation, space, and technology, demonstrate a commitment to physical fitness, and live the CAP Core values: Integrity, Volunteer Service, Excellence, and Respect,” Cadet Major Martin Simpkins, Cadet Training Group Commander, said.

Reciting the Honor Agreement Oath, the students pledged themselves to a high level of discipline and readiness, to be open to new experiences, to be a citizen of the encampment cadet community, to go without mobile phones and the Web, to be an active participant while at encampment, and to abide by all CAP rules and regulations. When that was over, they were escorted, by flight, to waiting vans for the return trip to the main encampment site, and the start of Encampment 2015.

